

**3115 Lafayette Street**  
**Houston, TX 77005**

January 26, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I would like to point out some of my views regarding the Microsoft antitrust case. I do not agree with every decision that Microsoft has made, but understand that business is business. I feel that there was merit behind many of the issues that brought about this case, but that was three years and countless taxpayers' dollars ago. I feel that the settlement agreement is the best way to close this case, and ensure that it never reaches the federal level again.

Although the settlement calls for concessions, Microsoft has agreed in an effort to end this case sooner rather than later. Microsoft has agreed to change the way it markets, licenses, and develops its software, as well as the way it deals with independent vendors. Microsoft has agreed to stop retaliating against those that promote or design non-Microsoft programs, and computer makers will be allowed to configure Windows so as to promote those programs.

It appears to me that Microsoft has made the necessary concessions, and now we must move our focus to the states that are pursuing further litigation. I fear that since the tobacco settlements, states have seen corporate lawsuits as additional forms of state revenue. I hope you are trying to recognize when states are using consumer protection as a veil for return on investment.

As long as Microsoft is willing to give up some of its market share and competitive advantage, there will always be those requesting more. I hope you will do everything in your power to attempt to close this case as soon as possible, or we might be back in a few years trying to protect Microsoft.

Sincerely,

  
Catherine McNamara